Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims presented below replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

1-6 (cancelled)

7. (currently amended) A frozen culture ~~material~~ packaged ~~packaging~~ body comprising:

a gable top type container which is formed using a laminated body including at least a paper layer ~~thin layer of paper~~ and an aluminum layer ~~a thin layer of aluminum~~; and is provided with a vent port, wherein the vent port is covered with an air-permeable filter which is ~~material,~~ made of ~~from~~ an unwoven paper having microbial impermeability and air permeability of a range of 5 to 10000 sec/100 cc under JIS-P8117 (Gurley method), ~~and formed at least in a portion of the container~~; and

a frozen culture stored ~~filled~~ in the container.

8. (currently amended) A frozen culture ~~material~~ packaged ~~packaging~~ body according to claim 7, wherein the frozen culture is frozen pellets of bifidobacteria.

9. (withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a frozen material packaging body comprising:

a step of forming a pellet-like frozen culture by dropping a culture that is incubated in a liquid medium through liquid nitrogen along with the liquid medium;

a step of filling the pellet-like frozen culture in a

a container formed using a laminated body including at least a thin layer of paper and a thin layer of aluminum and having,

at least in a portion the container, a vent port covered with an air-permeable filter material, made from an unwoven paper having microbial impermeability and air permeability of a range of 5 to 10000 sec/100 cc under JIS-P8117(Gurley method); and

a step of hermetically sealing the container thus filled.

10. (withdrawn) A method of freezing and fermenting a culture comprising:

a step of forming a pellet-like frozen culture by dropping the culture, incubated in a liquid medium, through liquid nitrogen along with the liquid medium;

a step of filling the pellet-like frozen culture in a

a container formed using a laminated body including at least a thin layer of paper and a thin layer of aluminum and having,

at least in a portion the container, a vent port covered with an air-permeable filter material, made from an unwoven paper having microbial impermeability and air permeability of a range of 5 to 10000 sec/100 cc under JIS-P8117(Gurley method);

a step of hermetically sealing the container thus filled;

a step of heating the frozen material packaging body thus sealed in an unopened state to melt the frozen culture; and

a step of successively fermenting the frozen culture.

11. (withdrawn) A method of freezing and fermenting the culture according to Claim 10, wherein:

the liquid medium is milk;

the frozen culture is frozen pellets of bifidobacteria; and

the fermentative temperature is 37 Celsius degree.

12. (new) A frozen culture packaged body according to claim 7, wherein the vent port is positioned in the vicinity of the upper end of the container and is not directly in contact with the frozen culture stored in the container.